THE
CATHOLIC RADICAL

"...to foster a society based on creed instead of greed." Peter Maurin

April/May 2026 ***Price: For whatever it's worth.***

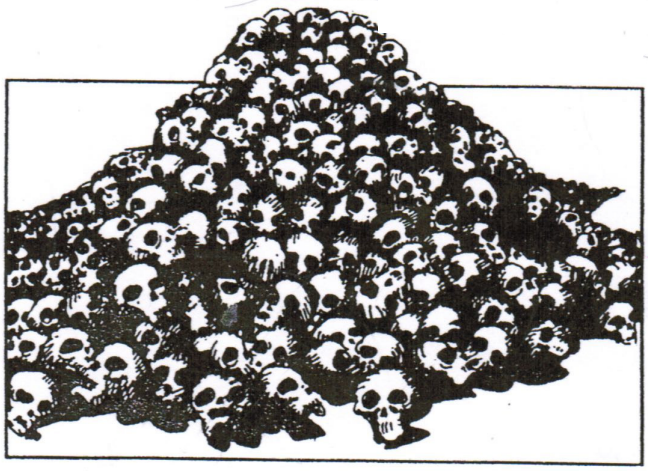
An Ethos of Peace

by Claire Schaeffer-Duffy

Pete Hegseth bounced around the podium as he spoke like a firebrand preacher unable to contain his zeal, his delivery manic and unfiltered. The self-proclaimed secretary of war was eager to tell the country's generals, whom he had assembled at Quantico, Virginia on September 30th, how he planned to reform a military that had become too woke, too risk averse, too fat. The pacifists were dangerously naïve, he said. Preparation for war was the only path to peace, and the republic deserved a military that could "win any war we choose, or any war that is thrust upon us."

According to Mr. Hegseth, threats loomed everywhere, though he never specified. Such dire times require a military that is well-equipped, well-trained, trim, and ruthlessly lethal. So "more troops, more munitions, more drones, more Patriots, more submarines, more B-21 bombers. . . and more AI," he said, and out with the fatties, "beardos," and "stupid" rules of engagement. For too long, the latter had shackled America's warriors and prevented them from intimidating and hunting down the enemy. Mr. Hegseth had come to liberate the war fighters. "You kill people and break things for a living," he told the assembled. "You are not politically correct and don't necessarily belong always in polite society." After declaring lethality to be the US military's new "calling card," he encouraged the generals to look up the "Christian" prayer for commanders. It was one he prayed often when he needed God's wisdom and protection for his troops.

Mr. Hegseth's military was already unleashing his ethos of maxim lethality, months before the Quantico address, the Christian commander praying as his warriors committed war crimes against some of the world's poorest people. Last March, in retaliation for Houthi rebels attacking ships in the Red Sea, the US launched more than one thousand air and naval strikes against Houthi targets in Yemen, a country where the annual per capita income is less than $500. On April 18, the US bombed Ras Issa Port, a critical entry point for commercial goods and humanitarian aid into the impoverished country. The strike killed 84 civilians, many of them dock workers, and injured another 150. To attack the port showed "callous disregard" for civilians and should be "investigated as a war crime," wrote Human Rights Watch in its summary of the incident. Ten days later, US forces hit a packed detention center in northwestern Yemen, killing 61 people and injuring 56 others. Bombing



(Continued on Page 2)

Inside Israel

by Neve Gordan

Editor's Note: *Neve Gordon is an Israeli Professor of International Law at Queen Mary University of London. This editorial first published by* Al Jazeera *on 2/5/26.*

While the international media has rightly focused on the genocide and enormous displacement in Gaza alongside the ethnic cleansing in the West Bank and occupied East Jerusalem, the 300 murders inside Israel in 2025, 252 of whom were Palestinian victims, garnered little to no media coverage outside Israel. Yet last year marked the deadliest year on record for murders among Palestinian citizens of Israel, who make up 21% of Israel's population but sustain 80% of the murders. That is one murder every 36 hours.

The international media have also covered the rise in anti-Semitism across the world, even as there has been little to no media coverage of how Israel has been exaggerating and instrumentalising a Zionist notion of anti-Semitism to create moral panic among Jews everywhere. Indeed, when I speak to Jewish friends in Israel, they often ask how I, who live in London, cope with anti-Semitism. As consumers of Israeli news, they can be forgiven for thinking that Jews across the world are in imminent danger.

These two phenomena – the crime epidemic within Palestinian communities inside Israel and the weaponisation of anti-Semitism to amplify Jewish fear – might seem totally unconnected. Yet there is a clear thread linking them, and it is called demographic engineering.

Demographic engineering has been at the heart of the Zionist project. During the 1948 war, about 750,000 Palestinians were

(Continued on Page 4)

Ethos of Peace

(Continued from Page 1)

Sa'ada prison compound, which was widely known to house detention facilities for African migrants, had "no military objective," wrote Amnesty International. The human rights organization called the mass casualty attack a likely war crime that must be investigated.

In early September, after the Trump administration declared narco-trafficking a national security threat rather than a crime, Mr. Hegseth's war-fighters began bombing vessels in international waters claiming, without evidence, the boats transported drugs. They bombed boats in the Caribbean Sea. They bombed boats in the eastern Pacific. The extra-judicial killings have murdered more than 150 people, so far, including two survivors killed while calling for help, an act that violates the US Navy Code of War. Mr. Hegseth says he is now on the "hunt for narco-terrorists" throughout the Western hemisphere.

On Christmas Day, the US military bombed what it said was an ISIS-affiliate operating in northwest Nigeria. A "Christmas present," for the country's persecuted Christians, according to Mr. Trump. But locals described the targeted group as criminals and bandits who were exploiting Muslims.

The Christmas Feast of Epiphany had yet to arrive, when Mr. Hegseth's war-fighters were off again, this time bombing Caracas, capital of Venezuela in flagrant violation of Venezuelan sovereignty. US soldiers repelled from helicopters into the compound of President Nicolas Maduro, abducted the autocratic president and his wife Cilla Flores, a Venezuelan politician, and hauled them off to a New York jail to face charges of drug-trafficking. Amid these multi-continental assaults our president periodically threatened to invade Greenland! Bomb Cuba!

All this happened *before* our current war on Iran which Mr. Trump chose to wage with Israel, a state committing genocide against the Palestinians. In less than three weeks, the US levied some eight thousand strikes against the Persian state. Among the first killed were 168 Iranian school girls and a top Iranian negotiator who, just two days before the attack, had participated in nuclear talks with Americans that mediators described as "making progress."

A "zeal for war is spreading," Pope Leo said during his January 9th address to the Diplomatic Corps. "The principle established after the Second World War which prohibited nations from using force to violate the borders of others has been completely undermined." Most significantly by our own government.

We live under leaders gone mad with war-making. Their grotesquely lawless infatuation with blowing up people all over the globe shocks the conscience. US devastation is so pervasive now, I have started asking local priests to include in the petition prayers at Mass pleas for forgiveness—a litany listing all the harms done.

As Catholic Workers we believe Christian participation in *any* military violates Jesus' command to "**love your enemy**." Those who embrace the Catholic Church's just war teaching hold another view. Hegseth's military, however, is unquestionably sacrilegious. Its ethos of making war to achieve a peace only the victor defines and its open disdain for humanitarian law prohibiting harm to noncombatants undermine all Catholic teaching on war.

Remarkably, Archbishop Timothy Broglio, head of the Catholic Archdiocese for the US Military, is among those speaking up. To deliberately kill survivors of a vessel US forces attacked is "illegal and immoral" he said, if they pose no threat. The "moral principle forbidding the intentional killing of noncombatants is inviolable." During a later interview with BBC 4, the archbishop said a US soldier could in good conscience disobey an order to invade Greenland, although he acknowledged it is very difficult to do so.

Thanks to the insistence of our Quaker forebearers, the US military allows for a soldier to claim conscientious objector status. How can we who profess pacifism accompany those who choose that hard and lonely path? What pastoral presence can we provide? I write these questions with the hope they inspire colllective discernment. In these hyper-militarized times, may God help us create an ethos of peace that supports all who refuse to kill. Ω

For information on military discharges and military counseling, call the GI Rights Hotline: 1- 877 447-4487

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THE CATHOLIC PRACTICAL

"...to publish a newsletter we plead you to heed" Scott Super-Daffy

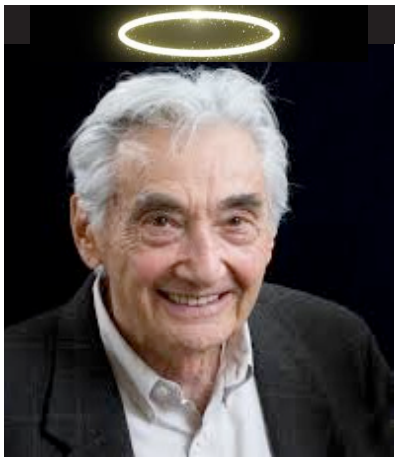
April Fools Day 2026 **Price: For as much as you can afford**

Cough Up the Cash!

by Howard Zinn

Editor's Note: This article was dictated to us in a vivid dream from the Afterlife.

Donald Trump spent $610,000 to tear up the Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington, DC, $45 million to celebrate his birthday, $2 million to destroy the White House Rose Garden, $300 million to add marble and gold to the Lincoln Bathroom and other places in the White House, $400 million to build a ballroom, $1 billion to renovate the plane he accepted from Qatar, $12 billion to finance Israeli genocide of Palestinians, $50 million to change the name of the Department of Defense, $45 billion on ICE, $330 million and counting to deploy the national guard in US cities and on the border with Mexico, $17 billion to cut taxes on the richest Americans, $26 million in personal spending according to the Government Accountability Office, and made $7.8 million from foreign government representatives staying in his hotels and, according to the *New Yorker*, raked in $4.4 billion more in violation of the Constitution's Emoluments Clauses.



From where I sit in Heaven, I say he should not only be impeached for racism, white nationalism, sexism, militarism, authoritarianism, anti-environmentalism, and countless other offenses, but should also be made to pay back every penny he stole from the people, especially after he fired tens of thousands of public servants and cut so many programs for the poor, elderly, and children.

I also think he needs to be held responsible for compelling writers like me to use run-on sentences that barely scratch the surface of his nefarious crimes. Ω

A Focused Focus Group

The world's leading statistician, Bradley Efron, assembled a focus group of ten American teens, gave them detailed background information, and then asked, "What do you think of the trillion dollar nuclear modernization and the shift from green energy to fossil fuels?" Teens quickly rejected both ideas as "skibidi" and "delulu." When asked, "How would you reply to experts who argue the US needs these programs?" one teen said, "Listen, Unc, no one can hand us a freakin' packet." Another said, "Ditching nukes and growing green energy is very demure, very mindful." Ω

[*Translation of teen jargon on page 6.*]

Thanks to YouTube Videos

Re-Naming We Support

President Trump slapped his name on many things: the Kennedy Center, a new class of battleships, the Institute for Peace, the White House Ballroom, and a state park. He commissioned a 15-foot gold statue of himself and proposed including his image on a new dollar coin.

Since he is so determined to preserve his legacy, I say let's do so with full honesty. The 27 EPA superfund toxic waste sites he cancelled should belong to him in perpetuity.

West Virginia, Wyoming, Indiana, and Kentucky, states that burn the highest amounts of coal, should re-name all respiratory diseases and many cancers after President Trump.

His statue, holding an assault rifle, should be erected on the site of the Las Vegas Route 91 Harvest Music festival where, in 2017, 60 people were killed and 413 injured by a man using a legal assault style weapon. The inscription on Trump's statue should read: "Trump is always gunning for you."

The Patriot Front, the largest American white nationalist, neo-fascist organization should be re-named "The Trump Front."

Texas' Dilley Immigration Processing Center, where Trump has imprisoned 3,000 adults and 500 children, many of them only four or five years old, should be renamed The Trump Center for Terrorization of Taxpaying and Law-Abiding, Non-White, Migrant Families from States Which Did Not Vote for Me.

Instead of putting his image on Mount Rushmore, Trump's mug should be installed in Disneyland's Haunted Mansion, where it'll frighten people for ages to come. Ω

Israel

(Continued from Page 1)

displaced in what Fayez Sayegh called "racial elimination." As part of this process, Palestinian cities were depopulated, and about 500 Palestinian villages were destroyed. By 1951, the Palestinians who had become refugees had been "replaced" by a similar number of Jewish immigrants, both Holocaust survivors from Europe and Mizrahi Jews from Arab countries, thus transforming the state's racial composition without altering its overall population size.

In the wake of the war, Israel not only disregarded United Nations Resolution 194 affirming the right of Palestinians who had been made refugees in 1948 to return to their homes, but in 1950 it passed the Law of Return, bestowing on Jews worldwide the right to enter Israel and obtain Israeli citizenship regardless of their countries of origin and whether or not they can show links to Israel-Palestine, while withholding any comparable right from Palestinians, including those with documented ancestral homes in the country.

Over the past two years, a number of Israeli politicians and influencers have characterized what Israel has been doing in the territories it occupied in 1967 as completing the job left undone in 1948: "A second, real *Nakba* [Arabic for "catastrophe"], to finish former Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion's work," one journalist quipped. Simultaneously, within Israel, a different kind of demographic strategy is unfolding, even as the objective remains the same.

Itamar Ben-Gvir is surely not the first minister of national security to have allowed criminal gangs to terrorize Palestinian communities. But on Ben Gvir's watch, the murders have reached record levels. And 2026 seems to be following the trend, with 31 more Palestinians murdered during the first month.

On the one hand, Israel has used the soaring crime to portray Palestinian citizens as uncivilized and barbaric, extending the dehumanization from stateless Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank to its own citizens. On the other hand, it has enabled criminals to terrorize Palestinian towns.

Indeed, the police have solved only 15% of the murders within the Palestinian community while doing little, if anything, to stop criminals from collecting "protection fees" from businesses – fees that extract an estimated two billion shekels ($650m) a year from the community.

On 1/22/26, Palestinians launched the largest demonstration since 2019, waving black flags while chanting slogans accusing the police of total abandonment. The following day, the organizers called a general strike, with one of the organizers, Mohammed Shlaata, making it clear that responsibility for the violence lies with the authorities: "We are in a state of emergency," he said. "We have a clear finger of accusation – we blame the police."

Jewish Voice for Peace poster

Talking to Palestinian friends, some tell me they fear for their children's lives and want them to leave the country, while others have packed their bags and left. Admittedly, the number of those leaving is low, but Palestinian citizens are reaching a boiling point.

At the same time that the government does nothing to quell criminal activity and lawlessness within Palestinian communities in Israel, it exaggerates and instrumentalizes a Zionist notion of anti-Semitism to continuously reassert Jewish victimhood.

While much has been written on the use of a false notion of anti-Semitism –that conflates criticism of Israel and Zionism with anathema towards Jews–to silence Palestinian and pro-Palestinian voices, much less has been said about the mobilisation of anti-Semitism to address Israel's problem of negative migration.

Since 2023, more Jews have been leaving the country than entering. In 2024, the number of citizens leaving Israel was 26,000 higher than the number of immigrants entering it; in 2025, the gap was about 37,000 Israelis. In other words, negative migration has jumped by more than 42%, and Israeli officials are worried that this trend is taking root and even accelerating.

Accordingly, both the Israeli public and the Jewish diaspora are told again and again that anti-Semitism across the globe has gone rampant. Jews are told that the horrific Bondi massacre in Australia is an indication of a new global trend, that in the United Kingdom anti-Semitism has been normalized, and that in Europe Jews are afraid to wear kippahs.

Anti-Semitism has undoubtedly soared over the past two years, and there is obviously a kernel of truth in these articles. But in contrast to the very real panic among Palestinian citizens, which the state has ignored, in the case of anti-Semitism, the state dramatically exaggerates and instrumentalizes the evidence to produce a moral panic. The message is clear: Jews across the world should fear for their lives, and therefore those who live in Israel should be wary of leaving, while the only way diasporic Jews can be safe is by migrating to Israel.

The glue holding all of the demographic strategies Israel deploys together is the belief in Jewish exceptionalism and supremacy. The genocide in Gaza and ethnic cleansing in the West Bank are justified through the dehumanization of Palestinians; the neglect of the murders and crime in Palestinian communities within Israel is informed by racial discrimination that has been ongoing since 1948; and Israel is weaponizing racism against Jews to curb negative migration. The ultimate objective is to guarantee the racial-religious character of Israel as exclusively Jewish, while the dream is a pure Jewish state. Ω

Editor's Note: Amnesty International reported on 11/27/25: "Israel's genocide against Palestinians in Gaza continues unabated despite ceasefire." B'Tselem, the Israeli human rights organization, said on 2/9/26, since the ceasefire, the Israeli military killed 618 people in Gaza, at least 110 of them children."

The White Rose

In 1942, a group of German college students formed an anti-Nazi group called "The White Rose." Until they were arrested in 1943, they wrote and distributed leaflets which infuriated Hitler and the Gestapo.

Their first leaflet opened with:

Nothing is more shameful to a civilized nation than to allow itself to be 'governed' by an irresponsible clique of sovereigns who have given themselves over to dark urges – and that without resisting. Isn't it true that every honest German is ashamed of his government these days? Who among us can imagine the degree of shame that will come upon us and upon our children when the veil falls from our faces and the awful crimes that infinitely exceed any human measure are exposed to the light of day?

Their second leaflet said:

...since Poland was conquered, three hundred thousand Jews have been murdered in the most bestial manner imaginable. In this we see a terrible crime against the dignity of humankind, a crime that cannot be compared with any other in the history of humankind.... Hardly anyone even gives them a second thought. The facts are accepted as just that and filed away. And one more time, the German nation slumbers on in its indifferent and foolish sleep and gives these fascist criminals courage and opportunity to rage on – which of course they do....

Just prior to her execution on February 22, 1943, 22-year-old Sophie Scholl said: "Somebody had to make a start. What we wrote and said is also believed by many others. They just don't dare express themselves as we did." Ω

Arlington

by Grace Duffy (now Sliwoski)

Editor's Note: This poem was written, when the author was 8, after a 1996 visit to Arlington National Cemetery.

Such long rows of granite graves
For that is all that war craves.

Soldiers have died these deaths of such agony and pain, it is too much.

Graves are all war has to give
but I think all beings
have a right to live. Ω

Cognitive Warfare

by Carolyn Howe

The greatest weapon against cognitive warfare is memory— and community.
—Jose Guzman Tato, Venezuelan Psychologist

Strike randomly.
Keep people guessing.
Will it be tonight,
or when my grandson is at recess
and I, too far away
to protect him?

Kill just a few,
beat up hundreds more.
Push people, toss sound grenades,
handcuff bystanders. Deny it all.
Do I dare step outside to record
ICE knocking at my neighbor's door?

Rewrite history. Burn books.
Weaponize misinformation.
Threaten those who spread truth.
People's ignorance, despot's bliss.
Will we become 1984*'s Winston Smith,*
succumbing to Big Brother?
Or the hero of Fahrenheit 451,
preserving memory, and hope?

Across the land
ordinary people facing fear
stand together, sometimes sit,
bravely kneel for justice.

Minds can only be colonized
when people isolate.
When people forget. Ω

Editor's Note: Carolyn Howe is an Associate Professor Emerita in Sociology from the College of the Holy Cross. She painted this image with the inscription: His name is Liam. He's 5 years old. Pre-K Spiderman backpack and bunny hat. I gave him a lion to protect him.

Youth Jargon Translation

The adjective "skibidi" means bad, dumb, or cool. It originates from Skibidi Toilet, a popular YouTube video.

"Delulu," short for delusional, is used when someone is holding unrealistic, confusing, or bizarre beliefs.

"Unc," short for "uncle," is most often used on TikTok to describe an old man who is out of touch and clinging to out-dated ideas.

"Handing someone a friggin' packet" is an expression taken from a 2007 video of a student named Jeff Bliss who got up in class and objected to his teacher's failure to give his class authentic, face-to face education rather than giving them out-dated worksheets.

"Very demure, very mindful" means something that is polished and elegant. The phrase was coined by TikToker Joolie Lebron, who first used the phrase in a satirical video about workplace beauty etiquette that recommended being "demure and modest and respectful at the workplace."

Here at *The Catholic Radical,* we recognize that language is a living thing. Some expressions are short-lived like "Let's go Brandon," which derives from a NASCAR event in October 2021, where a reporter mistakenly interpreted the crowd's chant of "F*** Joe Biden" as "Let's Go Brandon" while interviewing driver Brandon Brown.

Other jargon has endured, like the off-color World War II expression "Snafu," which stood for "Situation normal: all f***ed up."

Since words like "good" seem so bland or "meh," depending on the circumstances, some say "Gucci," "dank," "fire," "slay," "bussin'," or "Ate/ left no crumbs." No one over sixty should be surprised because their generation described things that were especially good as both "cool" and "hot."

Unfortunately, as soon as older people catch on to young people's jargon, those expressions become uncool and more creative ones often take their place.

Jeez, dudes, what the flip? That's so bogus. Ω

For the Ages

Ray Carter, of Beaufort, North Carolina, held a sign at a "No Kings Protest" which read, "I fought fascism in 1945 and, at 102, I'm doing it again."

Julia Hawkins, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who died at 108, took up running at age 100 and set the world record for the 100-meter dash in the 100-105 category and then in the over 105 age group.

Virginia Oliver, of Rockland, Maine, who died at 105, was a world-renowned fisher for over 90 years. She famously continued to trap lobsters with her son, Max, until the age of 103.

Letters

Dear Scott and Claire,

Thank you again for another inspiring and informative edition of *The Catholic Radical*. Every article touched me deeply. As a whole, it strengthened my commitment to support and defend those who are oppressed and to oppose their oppressors. Best of all, in spite of the difficulty of what's going on in our country now, it bolstered my faith in the innate goodness of human beings—in specific, that we are born not only in "God's image," as the Old Testament declares, but that we are created to be good, as God is good.

Sadly, it's what happens to us *after* birth that changes our story.

For example: Claire, in your excellent article "When Everyone Is a Terrorist," you note that soldiers have to be conditioned to kill. You quoted the military psychologist, Lt. Col. Dave Grossman as reporting that "most people have an intense resistance to killing other people." You quote a military study of US combat soldiers in World War II finding that "only 15-20% shot at German or Japanese troops. Even when soldiers came under heavy fire, that percentage didn't increase."

I am reminded of a story my father shared about his experience in WWII. Fortunately, his squadron landed in Normandy several days after the initial, bloodiest invasion. That Christmas, he was in Belgium where a family that he befriended invited him to their holiday meal. Unknown to him, a German soldier also had been invited to join the family for the meal. My father said he was surprised but the atmosphere was congenial and felt safe. Everyone sat together and enjoyed their meal, just as if they were all from one human family. What a wonderful world it would be if everyone embraced that truth. We ARE one family.

Your article contains another observation from Goodman: "Since World War II, a new era has quietly dawned in modern warfare, an era of psychological warfare conducted not upon one's enemies but upon one's own troops."

That psychological warfare is the main solvent that breaks down a soldier's innate

resistance to killing. Soldiers are subjected to "desensitization," which literally means soldiers lose their sensitivity. They are *disabled* from empathizing with the pain and suffering of other human beings. Compounding that, the military propaganda they are subjected to dehumanizes the enemy, which gives justification to be insensitive to the enemy. Also, soldiers are now conditioned to consider war like a video game in which the enemy is perceived as targets rather than as real human beings with feelings.

But what gives me hope—as you report and as you inspire through your own examples over the years—is the millions of people rising in opposition to the bigotry, cruelty, and injustices of the Trump administration, and also the widespread opposition to Israel's right-wing government and its murderous oppression of the Palestinians in Gaza. To paraphrase your words in "Mason Street Musings," Claire, God is surely dwelling among us.

Scott, your letter to President Trump is a beautiful testament to your own faith and ability to see the best in people. You appeal to the tiny flame of goodness that might be flickering somewhere within him. I have to admit that I fail to see any good in him, or don't want to see it. In a sense, I am constraining or confining him to his dark side. That traps me, too, in that I get locked into a limited (and limiting) perspective. I remember, during George W. Bush's presidency, holding great contempt for him. My loathing weighed me down. I became bitter. It was like I was boiling my own blood. I vowed not to let Trump get me going there again. I need to climb back up from that.

This reminds me of Ram Dass, formerly a psychologist at Harvard who travelled to India and returned to the states to popularize Eastern spirituality and yoga. During the Reagan presidency, the Secretary of Defense, Caspar Weinberger, was responsible for a massive expansion of military spending. Ram Dass fell into despising him. His spiritual endeavor was to see God in all beings—even in Caspar Weinberger. So as a daily reminder of his aspiration, he placed a photo of Weinberger on his altar!

Finally, regarding the piece "US Says Might Makes Right," and the words of Trump's advisor Stephen Miller justifying a "survival of the fittest" theory in the global arena: how wrong he is. It's not might that makes right; it's right that makes might. May Claire's prayer be the guiding light for all: "O Lord, deliver us from the murderous way and lead us to the path that gives life to all."

Phil Milgrom
Warren, Massachusetts

Scott and Claire,
We read your latest – cover to cover – for hope, and got it. Käthe Kollwitz: who knew? Now we know and are fortified by her legacy. "Everyone is a Terrorist" — so inspiring for peacemaking, even in the midst of the trauma. And your letter to Trump: good to send and to share... who knows, the light of God shines in every eye, if it can be uncovered.

Michael Caldwell & Patience Whitman
Wolcott, Vermont

Dear Scott & Claire,
Thank you, Claire, for seeing the humanity of ICE agent Jonathan Ross, who killed Renee Good. And thank you, Scott for seeing the humanity of President Donald Trump, whose all too public sins you list.

In the heat of this unprecedented craziness we are seeing in the States now (and elsewhere), I thank you for this witness to "nonviolent love of friends and enemies," as Charlie McCarthy says.

Paul del Junco
Toronto, Canada

Unfortunately, my view is that Trump is a real sociopath so appealing to a moral compass is nonsensical to him:

"Sociopaths disregard societal norms and rules, viewing them as optional barriers to their desires, leading to manipulative, deceitful, impulsive, and often criminal behavior with a profound lack of empathy or remorse for hurting others, often using charming facades to exploit people for personal gain. They struggle with responsibilities, show aggressive tendencies, and prioritize their own needs above all, even understanding right from wrong but choosing to ignore it."

Tim McCaffrey
Nokomis, Florida

Editor's Note: In Scott Schaeffer-Duffy's letter to President Trump, which appeared in the previous issue, he wrote, "Perhaps you are aware that Judaism, Christianity, and Islam all strongly condemn the charging of excessive interest on loans." This prompted the following correction.
Dear Scott,
...I believe Islam is completely opposed to the charging of interest....

Michael Marek
Jonah House Catholic Worker
Dallas, Texas

Editor's Note: Mr. Marek is correct. The Islamic Cirle of North America says:
Islam views the charging of interest as an exploitative practice that widens the gap between the rich and the poor. When a lender charges interest, they are guaranteed a return regardless of the borrower's circumstances or the success of their venture. This transfer of risk from the lender to the borrower is seen as unjust, particularly when it leads to a cycle of debt that can trap individuals and families in financial hardship.

Catholic Worker Calendar

Rita Corbin

Stations of the Cross - April 3: Please join us at 52 Mason Street at noon on Good Friday for a one-mile procession to reflect on ways in which Christ continues to suffer in 2026. Soup and bread will be available afterwards.

April 15 & 29, May 6 - 20 - Evening Prayer: Please join us for prayer with Taizé chant at 52 Mason Street. 7 PM. Refreshments to follow.

Mason Street Musings

The news today is swamped with shocking stories: President Trump overturning the Endangerment Finding for Greenhouse Gases; Mike Huckabee, the US Ambassador to Israel, saying it would be fine if Israel took over all the land between Egypt and the Euphrates River in Iraq; Secretary of War Hegseth saying the US forces attacking Iran will not be constrained by rules of engagement; Israel killing more journalists, 129 in 2025, than any country in history; etc.

But David Wallace-Wells's 2/25/26 *New York Times* op-ed "The Clean Energy Transition Is Still Happening" is a bright spot. He wrote: ...*Texas has been setting solar records through frigid February. Around 90% of all new power capacity installed anywhere in the nation last year was green*... and *Australia's breakneck pursuit of clean energy too cheap to meter is so far along that electricity prices in some regions have fallen by a third in a single year. Parts of the country have announced that they will be giving away electricity for free for three hours a day.... In 2026, the world may well spend more on green energy in total than it devotes to military spending*.

While nut cases bow at the altars of fossil fuels and our electric bills skyrocket, Australians are getting electricity for lower cost or for free. That's news we all need to hear.

Cathie Bleck

While the US spends over $30,0000 a second on unending war and kills with abandon without congressional approval, our phone rings and rings with people who are desperate for shelter. Just imagine the suffering which could be alleviated if we denounced war forever.

Such hope compelled Claire and me to join a rally at Worcester City Hall, organized by young socialists, against the US/Israeli war on Iran. Since most of us can remember the lies floated to justify the pointless slaughter of more than 100,000 people in Iraq, it's hard not to ask, as Pete Seeger did, "When will we ever learn?"

And yet, in spite of all the bad news, we must remember what the 19th century abolitionist Theodore Parker said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice." The abolitionists were not sentimentalists. They, more than anybody, knew how daunting the struggle was, but believed the Book of Revelations' promise that "**every tear will be wiped away and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore**."

That hope is also buoyed by former US Representative Marjorie Taylor Green, who said on February 28: ...*Most Americans are completely against this war... We don't feel threatened by Iran.... Now, over 100 little girls killed at a school from a bomb.... That's not good for Iranian women. Our president is saying the Iranian people are going to topple their regime. Well, I don't think the Iranian people are going to be toppling their regime when they're being blown apart by the United States and Israel in an unprovoked attack. ... I don't want to see more dead and murdered.... It's time for America to rip the band-aid off and have a serious conversation about... who are these decisions being made for....*

When a former Trump cheerleader like Green opposes US war-making, it becomes easier to believe Christ rose from the dead.

After a winter of unprecedented heating bills, we realize how dependent we are on your spiritual and financial support.

Let's proclaim together the Easter victory of life over death.! Ω **Scott**

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